

# REUSABLE SCHOOL NEWS

CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FALL 1996

## ***It's Cool to Care About Our Earth!***

The State of California Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN) and The Walt Disney Company honored David Neubacher and his fifth-grade class from El Verano School, located in Sonoma, as environmental heroes during a ceremony at Disneyland on June 7.

The class was selected as the Grand Prize winners in Jiminy Cricket's Environmentality Challenge. This program encourages fifth-grade students in California's school system to think and act environmentally at school and home. Classes also develop and implement environmental action projects, targeting local and community environmental problems, that are entered into a statewide competition.



The project developed by the El Verano students began as a creek cleanup. However, after nearby Point Reyes National Seashore park was ravaged by a fire, the class's project goal was redirected. More than 800 volunteer hours were donated repairing trails, restoring wildlife habitats, removing debris, repairing grounds from fire fighting efforts and taking steps to slow erosion. These inspirational students also recruited 87 community members to help restore the park. Costs for material and transportation were generated by a community-wide recycling program instituted by the kids.

The students and their teacher were presented with the "Jiminy" award by Roy Disney, vice-chairman of The Walt Disney Company. The group was also treated to an exclusive environmental backstage tour of Disneyland and a parade down Main Street, U.S.A.

The 1996-97 Environmentality Challenge provides new opportunities for fifth-grade classes to take action to improve the environment and to receive special prizes and recognition for their efforts. For more information about this special program, check the insert in this issue of the News, or call the Environmentality Hotline at 1-800-290-0299.

## ***Who is CSIN?***

The California Science Implementation Network (CSIN), is the elementary science component of our National Science Foundation State Systemic Initiative, the California Alliance for Mathematics and Science.

CSIN assists elementary schools in planning and implementing quality science programs, and promotes science literacy in relationship to other curricular areas. Since its beginning in 1988, CSIN has helped advance schoolwide change in more than 1700 schools, representing more than 50 percent of the districts throughout the state. If you would like to know more about CSIN, call the CSIN office at (714) 824-7809. Ask to be put in touch with your local CSIN Regional Director.

*Reusable School News (the News) is published by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), the agency responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of a statewide integrated waste management program. CIWMB provides technical assistance and resource information to school districts in developing waste prevention and recycling programs. The News highlights case studies showcasing the economic and environmental benefits of establishing a district-wide waste reduction program. It is being sent to local governments, school districts, schools and other interested parties. For more information, call the Schools Section at (916) 255-2385.*

## Recycling Benefits Desert Sands Unified

Desert Sands Unified passed a resolution and hired a full-time recycling clerk to launch a solid waste reduction and recycling program. Less than a year old, the program is now implemented at the district's administrative offices and at every school in the district.

Rosemary Mindiola, recycling clerk at the district, has this strategy: "We started by focusing on the district offices and allowing sites to start their own programs when they were ready." All twenty-one schools within the district now recycle mixed paper and cardboard. Several sites are also participating in programs to recycle aluminum cans, plastic bottles, tin and steel containers, glass, and newspaper. Other materials targeted for recycling from schools are surplus textbooks and used cooking oil from the district's nine middle and high schools. Used motor oil, wooden pallets, green waste, scrap metal from broken furniture, and vehicle parts are also recycled at the district's administrative offices.

Eight months (average age of school programs) after starting the program, the district now diverts 3.5 million pounds of material from the local landfill! Besides the environmental benefits of reduced disposal, the program has significantly reduced waste hauling costs. Savings from avoided disposal are estimated at \$123,000—enough to pay for the recycling clerk position and additional savings of \$57,000. As a result, the district will transfer these savings into the school's 1996/97 discretionary budgets to reward their recycling efforts. Schools will receive an average benefit of \$1,000 to \$3,000 each, with some receiving as much as \$7,000, depending on their participation.

Next year the district plans to improve the program by increasing participation, starting aseptic container recycling and introducing green waste recycling at school sites.

Congratulations to all the students and staff at Desert Sands Unified for reducing waste disposal from their schools. For more information about this program contact Rosemary Mindiola, Desert Sands Unified, at (619) 775-3500.

## Free Curriculum!!!

**Y**ou can receive a copy of *Closing the Loop* at no cost by attending one of our training workshops or inviting us to your school or district's inservice day. There is no charge for our workshops and we would be happy to train teachers using this 40 lesson hands-on curriculum.

If you are interested in holding a *Closing the Loop* workshop or would like to be added to our mailing list to receive notification of upcoming workshops, please contact the CIWMB Public Education Assistance Section at (916) 255-2385. If you are unable to attend a workshop you can purchase *Closing the Loop* for \$17.50. Please send checks along with your name and address to CIWMB, School Section, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.

(Closing the Loop is also available in Spanish.)

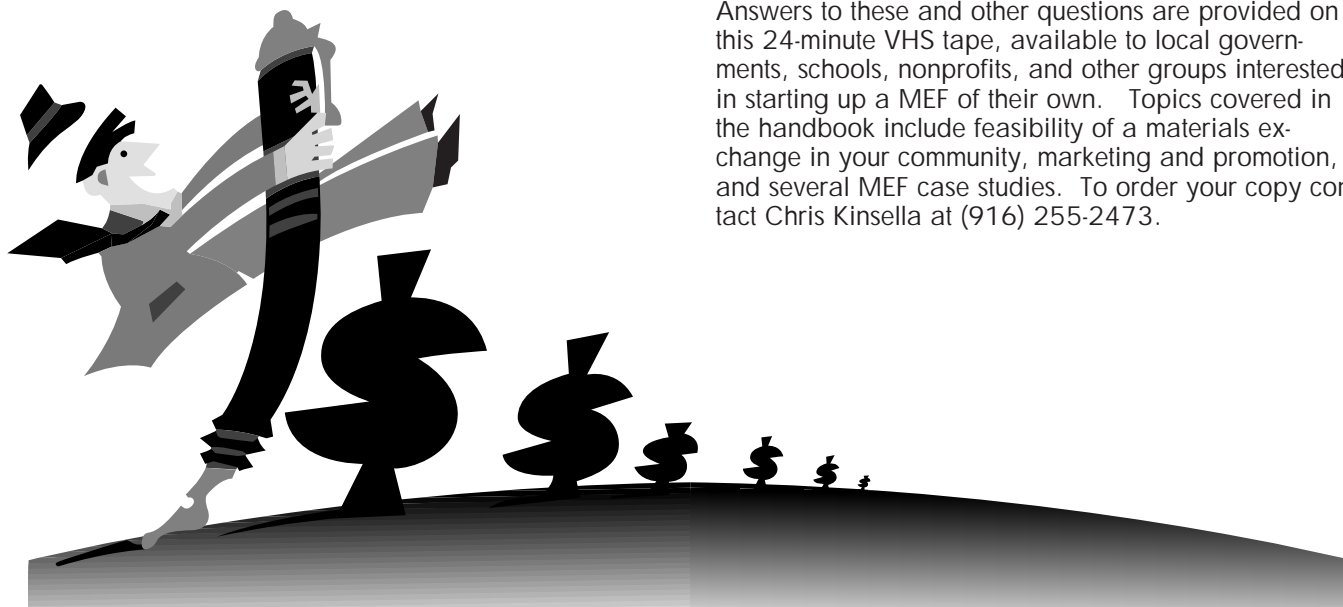
## Reuse Business Opportunities!

Now available at no cost! The latest CIWMB video—"California's Materials Exchange Facilities". This informative program and the accompanying handbook highlight three California Materials Exchange Facilities (MEF) and reference many others.

Several MEFs provide valuable materials to schools, including the RAFT (Resource Area for Teachers) in Sunnyvale and Funky Art Treasures in Ukiah, a student-run reuse store.

### What's a MEF, and what role might one play in your community's waste management system?

Answers to these and other questions are provided on this 24-minute VHS tape, available to local governments, schools, nonprofits, and other groups interested in starting up a MEF of their own. Topics covered in the handbook include feasibility of a materials exchange in your community, marketing and promotion, and several MEF case studies. To order your copy contact Chris Kinsella at (916) 255-2473.



## **Free Materials For Schools!**

Need binders? Buckets? Art or science supplies? Fabric? Building supplies? Computers? Paper? Paint?

**K**idMAX is a special promotion of the California Materials Exchange (CALMAX). KidMAX offers schools free or inexpensive materials in the CALMAX bimonthly catalog. Teachers can obtain a variety of useful discards donated by businesses and institutions throughout California. Shop for hundreds of items that could be yours for just a phone call! Or visit CALMAX/KidMAX on the World-Wide Web at <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/mrt/calmax/calmax.htm>.

For a free CALMAX catalog, to place a free listing, or for more information on reuse and recycling, call (916) 255-2369.

## **East Bay Leads the Way in Reuse**

Paper towel tubes, film canisters, and cardboard boxes are trash to some but treasures to others. One such treasure hunter is The East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse located in Oakland. The program focuses on influencing the attitudes and behavior of students and their families concerning how much they throw away, and to increase students' commitment to responsible, sustainable attitudes towards waste reduction.

The East Bay Depot offers an exciting activity-based waste reduction program for elementary and middle schools, plus an evening creative reuse festival for the entire school community. The Depot operates a materials reuse center for teachers in south Alameda County. The center offers crafts and learning materials for classroom use. These items would be normally thrown away, but the Depot rescues them from local businesses and makes them available to teachers for a nominal cost.

The Depot is funded by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and the Alameda County Recycling Board with supplemental grants from the City of Livermore and Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI). For more information about this program, contact the East Bay Depot at (510) 547-4733.

## **Envirohouse Teaches Environmental Connectedness**

Want your students to have an interactive environmental education experience? Build an Envirohouse. Tuolumne County's Office of Education did. And the students are learning how their day-to-day activities affect the environment in substantial ways.

When students visit the Envirohouse, they become environmental scientists and detectives to discover many things:

- How many watts it takes to run a hair dryer and a popcorn popper
- The outputs of a low-flow shower head and average shower head are very different
- How long different types of light bulbs last
- Examples of hazardous products stored in their houses
- How insulation is used to conserve energy

The Envirohouse is really not a house at all but a classroom with permanent, interactive stations where children discover how their day-to-day activities impact the environment. It is a series of interactive displays that provide hands-on learning about water and energy conservation, recycling, household hazardous waste, and other solid waste management issues. Designed for fourth through sixth-grade students, the program connects classroom science and mathematics with household activities. A workbook is given to the students to guide them through each of the experiment stations. The workbook engages independent thought with many open-ended questions and sharpens math skills with calculations in energy and water use.

The Envirohouse is located at Cal Sierra Disposal's material recovery facility in their "field trip room." When students arrive at Cal Sierra, they are greeted by Karyn Calhoun, Cal Sierra's Envirohouse tour guide. Karyn takes them on a tour of the entire facility and assists the teachers in taking their students through the Envirohouse. The location is ideal because students get a first-hand look at how their community's garbage is sorted and baled for processing, giving them an experience they won't soon forget. They peer outside the second story picture windows and view a "picking line" where garbage is sorted by hand for recycling. They learn that the garbage generated in their community is first sorted by hand then baled for transport to Nevada for landfilling. A compost and garden project is also planned and will be included in the overall program. Without the support of Cal Sierra Disposal's material recovery facility, the Envirohouse would have never happened!

**T**he project is the brainchild of Wendy Harrison, an environmental education specialist with Tuolumne County's Office of Education. Since its completion in February, over 350 students have visited the Envirohouse. To find out more about the Envirohouse program, you can contact Wendy at (209) 795-5342.

## Reduction Survey Report

In California, there are 1,001 school districts and 7,818 schools with 5,341,025 students generating 555,467 tons of material (based on the City of Los Angeles Solid Waste Generation Study of 0.104 tons per person per year). This amount does not include staff and teachers who generate solid waste at schools.

A school district waste reduction questionnaire was prepared by CIWMB staff and on April 1 the 1996 questionnaire was sent to all 1001 California school districts. By the May 1 due date, 293 had been completed and returned. To ensure that this study revealed a complete picture of school district recycling, the remaining 671 school districts were called and asked to answer the questions over the telephone. Of the 1,001 districts, 37 (4 percent) were nonresponsive, i.e. surveys were not returned and a district representative was unavailable when telephoned.

cycled more than four different material types. The percent of school districts recycling individual material types and the percent of students represented by these school districts are as follows:

Material Type	Percent of Districts Recycling This Material
Paper	40
Aluminum	38
Cardboard	31
Used Oil	30
Plastic	17
Glass	14
Laser Toner Cartridges	13
Steel or Tin Cans	10
Milk Cartons	8
Polystyrene	8

This information and other information from the survey will be provided to school districts by September 30, 1996 to facilitate networking.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), as a recipient of federal and state funds, is an equal opportunity employer/program and is subject to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). CIWMB publications are available in an accessible formats upon request by calling the Public Affairs Office at (916) 255-2296.

Persons with hearing impairments can reach the CIWMB through the California Relay Service, 1-800-735-2929.



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# ***Greetings, Fifth-Grade Teacher!***

Now your students can have the memory of a lifetime with this exciting program—Jiminy Cricket's Environmental Challenge. Our hope is to provide a fun, challenging way to inspire fifth-graders to learn more about their environment and to apply their understanding through the development of a responsible action project. We encourage students to think and act environmentally at school, at home, and in their community.

## ***What is the Environmental Challenge?***

**J**iminy Cricket's Environmental Challenge is a statewide program open to all California fifth-grade classes with the overall goal of helping students learn "IT'S COOL TO CARE" for our environment. It comprises two parts—the Environmental Pledge and the Class Project Competition. Awards are given at all levels.

The pledge—easy and interactive—encourages students to care for our environment. Students will receive an Environmental Pledge form which can be taken home and shared with their families. For example, students can pledge to turn off lights, shut off dripping faucets, or recycle. In return, students receive a special gift. (This is the easiest commitment and well worth signing up for.)

The Class Project Competition requires a hands-on class project, developed and implemented by your students, that emphasizes some aspect of helping the environment. It may demonstrate how people, plants, and animals can coexist in our world in a sustainable manner. The sky's the limit for ideas here. For example, students can start a "zero-waste" school program, hold an Environmental fair, or adopt a local endangered species.

By participating in this delightful program, your class has the opportunity to win an unforgettable, all-expense-paid trip to DISNEYLAND Park! The trip includes an exclusive backstage environmental tour, a parade in their honor, and a special awards ceremony. Your students could have all of this and help our environment too!

As the teacher, your role is to submit the entry form (on reverse side), comply with the Environmental Challenge's corresponding rules and deadlines, and act as a project facilitator (if participating in the competition).

We at the California Integrated Waste Management Board hope your class participates in the Environmental Challenge! We know it will enrich the school year for both you and your students.

So, fill out the entry form as soon as possible and be the first fifth-grade teacher at your school to receive a special gift from Disney!

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# JIMINY CRICKET'S ENVIRONMENTALITY CHALLENGE PRE-ENROLLMENT FORM '96-'97

## PLEASE PRINT:

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students Participating \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fifth Grade Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_

If "year round," state "off track" months \_\_\_\_\_

## My class would like to participate in: (check one)

☐  
☐

Environmentality Pledge and Class Project Competition

Environmentality Pledge only

I would like to receive a listing of environmental education curricula on the following topics:

Air Quality \_\_\_\_\_ Energy Resources \_\_\_\_\_ Human Communities \_\_\_\_\_

Integrated Waste Management \_\_\_\_\_ Natural Communities \_\_\_\_\_

Water Resources \_\_\_\_\_

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL OUR HOTLINE AT 1 (800) 290-0299.

**Mail this form to:** Jiminy Cricket's Environmentality Challenge  
P.O. Box 7516  
Burbank, CA 91510-7516

By completing and returning this form, you will automatically be enrolled in the '96-'97 Jiminy Cricket's Environmentality Challenge program and will receive all program materials in September, 1996. Please contact our hotline should you change schools, class grade or if you have any questions.

Schools, students, teachers, and adult chaperones from the winning classes consent to the use of their names and likenesses for marketing and advertising purposes without additional compensation. The class project, including any support documents, will become the property of the State of California and will not be returned.

